

WE CLAIM:

1. A dermatological composition for treating and protecting dry skin, consisting essentially of:  
about 21 to about 40 wt-% urea;  
about 0.1 to about 20 wt-% of an antioxidant; and  
dermatologically acceptable excipients as the balance.
2. The dermatological composition of claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is Vitamin E.
3. The dermatological composition of claim 2, wherein the dermatological composition includes 5 wt-% Vitamin E.
4. The dermatological composition of claim 3, wherein the dermatological composition includes 40 wt-% urea.
5. The dermatological composition of claim 1, wherein the dermatological composition includes 5 wt-% of the antioxidant.
6. The dermatological composition of claim 1, wherein the dermatological composition includes 40 wt-% urea.
7. The dermatological composition of claim 1, wherein the dermatologically acceptable excipients include an excipient selected from the group consisting of petrolatum or a synthetic or semi-synthetic hydrocarbon, or a semi-solid mixture thereof; a C<sub>16-18</sub> straight or branched chain fatty alcohol or fatty acid, or a mixture thereof; glyceryl stearate; and xanthan gum.
8. The dermatological composition of claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of Vitamin E, Vitamin C, and grape seed extract.
9. The dermatological composition of claim 1, wherein the dermatologically acceptable excipients include propylene glycol.

10. The dermatological composition of claim 1, wherein the dermatologically acceptable excipients include mineral oil.
11. The dermatological composition of claim 4, wherein the dermatologically acceptable excipients include about 7 wt-% mineral oil.
12. The dermatological composition of claim 4, wherein the dermatologically acceptable excipients include about 3 wt-% propylene glycol.
13. A method of treating and protecting dry skin comprising:  
applying to skin an effective amount of a composition according to claim 1.
14. A method of treating and protecting dry skin comprising:  
applying to skin an effective amount of a composition according to claim 4.
15. A method of treating xerosis, ichthyosis, and dry skin, comprising:  
applying to skin in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 1.
15. A method of treating xerosis, ichthyosis, and dry skin, comprising:  
applying to skin in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 4.